



# The Kansas Lions News

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## 2020 State Convention goes virtual on June 6

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Fourth State Council Meeting in conjunction with 2020 State Convention will be conducted as a virtual online meeting.

The State Convention and Kansas Lions Band Camp in Topeka were cancelled in the best interest and safety of all participants.

The Council of Governors has set 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 6 for a virtual Fourth State Council Meeting to conclude our Lionistic business for 2019-2020. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. All Lions are welcome

to participate via computer, tablet or smart phone.

For an invitation to participate and information on how to join the meeting, send an email to PDG Chris Bauer at [md17convention@gmail.com](mailto:md17convention@gmail.com). Registration deadline is May 29.

There is an amendment to the MD-17 Constitution and By-Laws to be voted on this year. Voting on the amendment will take place by electronic ballot on June 1-4. Voting is by certified delegates. Information on registering delegates has been sent to all club presidents and secretaries. For more

information, contact your club president or secretary or PDG Chris Bauer at [md17election@gmail.com](mailto:md17election@gmail.com).

Committee reports are to be emailed to State Secretary Linda McCormick ([kansaslions@aol.com](mailto:kansaslions@aol.com)) by June 1. If committees would like to have a virtual meeting, please contact PDG Dan Funke at [djfunke@cox.net](mailto:djfunke@cox.net) to set up a meeting via Zoom.

Committee Chairs will be acknowledged during the meeting if there is anything to be voted on or accepted by the Council.

**Text of proposed constitutional amendment on page 3.  
2020 virtual convention agenda on page 3.**

**Email PDG Chris Bauer for information on how to join the virtual convention by May 29:  
[md17convention@gmail.com](mailto:md17convention@gmail.com).**

## A bittersweet conclusion to the Lions year

*By Council Chair Patrick Laham*

Greetings Lions! I hope you are all safe and practicing self distancing and hand washing as you read this final edition of *The Kansas Lions News*.

Yes, this is the final edition of this newspaper. Back in October, the Council of Governors, citing membership losses and budget concerns, voted to discontinue funding for *The Kansas Lions News* at the end of this Lions year. I want to commend Lion Nancy Borst, longtime editor, for her outstanding service to Kansas Lions and dedication to the communication vehicle that has appeared before each meeting of Kansas Lions.

While we will miss *The Kansas Lions News*, it is now important for each Lion to read and disseminate the newsletters of each District Governor, as those will be carrying the information formerly contained in *The Kansas Lions News*.

My year as your Council Chair was also bittersweet with many highs and lows. Among the highlights was meeting Judge Haynes Townsend at the Wichita Downtown 100th Anniversary Celebration. Among the lows was learning of

his passing just a few days later. He leaves us with his legacy of kindness. It is our job to carry that legacy forward.

It is sad that we have to leave much of our work undone due to social distancing. Who would have guessed that the wonderful Convention in District K would be one of the last major in person gatherings of the year? It was great having ID Geoff Wade and Lion Nancy visit Kansas for the occasion, which included a special visit to the Convention by U.S. Senator Lion Jerry Moran. It was another bittersweet moment of the year.

Many clubs are now meeting and holding their elections online. District N and District A are planning virtual conventions in May. I hope you all will take advantage of the technology available to us and meet at your virtual District Conventions.

We are planning for a Fourth State Council Meeting to be held virtually on June 6. If you are a state committee chair, your report will need to be filed by email to State Secretary Linda ahead of the Council Meeting.

Of course, the Kansas Lions Band Camp and the Kansas  
*Continued on next page*



*CC Patrick Laham*

## Council Chair message

*Continued from previous page*

Lions State Convention to be held in Topeka have been cancelled for this year as well. We are hoping for a better and stronger State Convention and Band Camp next year. I am so sad for the fourth and fifth year students not being able to participate, but due to the prevailing conditions, the Governors felt it best that both events take a one-year hiatus.

Earlier in the Lions year, I was at the **Lyndon Lions Club** for an officer installation. President-elect Pam Bilyeu was on a business trip and unable to be in attendance. We dialed her up on the phone and did a Facetime installation from her location in another state. She was even able to address her club. I thought about how wonderful technology was, but I now see that the event was a foreshadowing of things to come. It is a different world that we are living in now, and it is uncertain how long this will last.

I was recently asked what was the best thing about being Council Chair. I replied without hesitation that the best

thing was working with the Governors! They have been a solid force throughout, and have kept Kansas Lions alive and strong. They are without question the BEST thing about being Council Chair. I salute them for their strength and leadership. Thank you Governors for making my year special, and keeping me on track.

Throughout my life, I have always tried to live by a leadership standard that an old friend left with me many years ago: to always leave a place better than I found it. I am not so sure that we have done that this year, but as I leave the Council Chair position to my successor, I pledge that I will do everything that I can to try to make Multiple District 17 a better place as we move forward through uncharted waters. Please continue to serve as best you can, while practicing good citizenship, and keeping your clubs strong. Remember that Kindness Matters. I will be watching, and working beside you.

*Council Chair Patrick*

## Goodbye, so long and farewell

So, this is goodbye.

Not goodbye forever, but goodbye from a job I have done – and enjoyed – for the past 15 years.

I want to thank all the Lions and clubs who have faithfully sent their news for *The Kansas Lions News*. I feel as if I know you personally.

I have especially enjoyed hearing from small clubs in small towns, may-

be because that mirrors my own Lions' experience. I always did my best to publish anything I got from such clubs.

My parents were both Lions, as was my grandfather. I have inherited several Lions' items from them. My bedroom wall bears a plaque given to my dad, John M. Dressler, for serving as president of the Kingman Lions Club in 1960-61. He was a dedicated Lion.

My mother Jane's passion for Lions in her final years set an example I will continue to strive to emulate.

I wish all Kansas Lions the best, especially during these uncertain times. I will miss sharing your stories.

Take care.

*Nancy D. Borst*

*Editor, The Kansas Lions News  
2005-2020*

## 2019-20 Council of Governors

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### Follow MD-17 .....

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• on social media:  
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## Fourth State Council Meeting Agenda

*Conducted virtually in conjunction with 2020 State Convention Business Session*

Adoption of Agenda – Patrick Laham  
Parliamentarian Report – Chris Bauer  
Adoption of Minutes of Second State Council Meeting and Minutes of Third State Council Meeting – Patrick Laham  
2019-2020 District Governor Reports and Goals – District Governors  
Treasurer Report – Hans Neidhardt  
Audit – DeAnne Heersche  
Budget and Finance – Dan Funke  
Constitution and By-Laws and SOPs, results of voting on amendments – Chris Bauer  
Environmental – Merle Laham  
International Convention 2020 – Deb Weaverling  
GLT, GMT, GST Programs – Dan Funke, Terry Weldin, Bill Phillippi  
K-I – Tom Weatherd  
Lions LCIF Program – Rick Dodson  
Lions Health Programs – Vern Failor  
Long Range Planning – Helen LeBlanc  
Mid-Winter Rally – Bill Phillippi  
Public Relations – Diane Baumann  
State Convention 2020 – Bob Duvall  
State and International Band – Hans Neidhardt  
State Office – Patrick Laham  
Kansas Lions Foundation Annual Meeting – Helen LeBlanc  
Kansas Lions Band Foundation Annual Meeting – Willie Tolle  
Kansas Lions Sight Foundation Annual Meeting – Gene Vogel  
Unfinished Business – Patrick Laham  
New Business – Patrick Laham  
Adjournment

***Please plan to participate in this virtual meeting, which is open to all Kansas Lions.***

***Email PDG Chris Bauer by May 29 for information on how to join the virtual convention: [md17convention@gmail.com](mailto:md17convention@gmail.com).***

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## Proposed MD-17 Constitutional Amendment

The following proposed amendment to Article XI of the MD-17 Constitution shall be voted on in conjunction with the virtual 2020 Kansas Lions State Convention. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the delegates is required for the amendment to pass.

*Delete Section 2 completely:*

~~Any proposed amendment must be presented to the State Council and the State Council Constitution and By-Laws Committee not less than ten (10) days prior to the first meeting of new calendar year of the State Council. Not later than March 1st prior to the convening of the State Convention, the Chairperson of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee or state secretary shall have mailed to the Editor of the Kansas~~

~~Lions News a copy of the proposed amendment(s) or proposal for amendments(s) or a notice of the nature and general content of the amendment(s), including the ARTICLE and SECTION proposed to be amended. The Editor of the Kansas Lion News shall publish in the next issue of the Kansas Lions News such information.~~

*Replace with a new Section 2:*

No amendment shall be so reported or voted upon unless the same shall have been published by regular post or electronic means to each club no less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening date of the annual convention with notice that the same will be voted upon at said convention.

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Lions and guests got into the spirit of the evening at the "Roaring '20s" party during the District K convention in March in Hays. Contributed photo

## District K convention weekend ushers in the '20s

As 17-K District Governor Tom Baumann and First Vice District Governor Diana Baumann were waiting for International Director Geoffrey Wade and Lion Nancy to arrive by plane in early March, they were also waiting for word from LCI on holding District Conventions.

As the four were headed back to the hotel, word came that Districts that did not have reports of the COVID-19 virus nearby should go ahead with their conventions. So District K did!

Friday evening, March 13, started the annual event with a Meet and Greet with the theme, "the Roaring '20s." Lions from around the state joined in and dressed for the contest and fun. In addition to the best dressed contest, Lions enjoyed a fantastic meal and entertainment provided by the Hays Community Theatre. The Lions themselves provided some dance entertainment as well, which was the highlight of the evening!

Saturday started with a snowstorm out west. Quite a few Lions were not able to attend due to road conditions but close to 125 showed up for a day of learning, leading, recognizing, remembering and just enjoying each other's company. There is no stopping some Lions, which was proven when the St.

*Continued on next page*



LEFT: Dee Bodine was deemed the "best dressed woman" at the District K "Roaring '20s" party.

ABOVE: PDG Randy St. Aubyn, pictured with his wife, Donna, was named "best dressed man."

Contributed photos

*Continued from previous page*

**Francis Lions** made the long trip to the convention from the northwest corner of the state!

Banners were set up, including some from other districts in Kansas. This event truly was a team effort, with PID Bill Phillipi and wife, Lion Vickie, and PID Gene Vogel attending along with our International Director Candidate PCC Deb Weaverling and Lion Ron; Council Chair Patrick Laham and Lion Merle, along with District and Vice District Governors from all over the state. Our State GMT Chair Terry Weldon and Wanda, and State GLT Chair Dan Funke and Lion Becky, also were on hand. The Lions in District K were able to hear State Treasurer and Lions Band Co-Chair PCC Hans Neidhardt talk about the band and the fact that the 2023 State Convention will be held in Hays.

Delegates elected Diana Baumann (Hays) as District Governor Elect; PDG Mel Barnett (Hutchinson), Director of the Kansas Lions Foundation; David Davis (Norton) and Harold Stultz (Pratt), Directors of the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation, and Jennifer Marsteller (Lane County), and Bill Wicks (Morland), Directors of the Kansas Lions Band Foundation.

A town hall meeting with ID Wade was very informative and was followed by seminars on getting younger members involved by looking at high school seniors to join clubs and involving Peace Poster children and their families in club events. Lion Trase McQueen could not attend but put together a very nice presentation which he narrated about why he is a Lion in the **Barnard Club** while he is still attending high school. Hopefully Lion Trase will be able to make this presentation at another Lions event.

Senator and Lion Jerry Moran was good enough to drive in from Manhattan to speak at the Convention. He updated us on the Novel Coronavirus and then spent quite a bit of time talking about growing up with Lions in Plainville and how Lions are so vital to our communities. His talk was appreciated by all.



*PDG Kathie Bell was honored as the District K Lion of the Year during the district convention March 13-14 at Hays. Contributed photo*

The Lions brought some amazing items to the auction, which raised more than \$2,000 to be used to develop leaders in the district. The auction contained beautiful jewelry, handmade blankets, beautiful works of art with wood, original paintings and much, much more. Thanks to all who donated and those who bid for each item.

The Governor's Banquet provided a great meal and beautiful piano music that had many tables playing "Name That Tune." Presidential Certificates were given to Lion Elwyn Maneth, Great Bend; Lion Louise Greenberg, Smith Center, and PCC Les Herrman and 1VDG Diana Baumann, both from Hays. Lion Merle and Lion Louise presented Environmental Photo Contest Winners (Lion Greg Billings, PCC Fran Smith, 1VDG Diana Baumann and Lion Terri Horner) and Lion Lou-

ise introduced each of the District's Peace Poster winners: Lyssa Beesley, **Lane County Lions**, first; Fatima Carrillo, **Ulysses Lions**, second; Laural Titus, **Colby Lions**, third; and Rueben Steenkamp, honorable mention.

Ten Melvin Jones Awards were presented and Lion of the Year for the District was presented to PDG Kathie Bell. The **Norton Lions**, **Bucklin Lions** and **Dodge City Lions** were winners in the District Membership Contest and **Great Bend Evening** and **Stafford Lions** won the Convention Attendance Awards.

It was a wonderful weekend for Lions to meet and have a good time together before going back home to "Stay at Home" orders. District 17-K is very thankful for all the Lions who attended and to those who helped make this year a success.

## More District K convention photos



### Environmental Photo winners

Lions Merle Laham (left) and Louise Greenburg (right) presented awards to the district Environmental Photo Contest winners: Lion Greg Billings, first; 1VDG Diana Baumann, second; PCC Fran Smith, third, and Lion Terri Horner, honorable mention. Contributed photos



### Fun for a good cause

Among those embracing the District K convention fun were, left, PDG Marvin and PCC Elfrieda Funk. Above, PDG Randy St. Aubyn takes a pie to the face in honor of International Pi Day (3.14). The pie was donated to the auction, with proceeds going to the Leadership Fund.

## Lions honor Peace Poster artists at 2020 Mid-Winter Rally

The theme for the 2019-2020 Peace Poster Contest is “Journey of Peace.” Young Kansas student artists embraced the challenge of creating posters depicting that theme.

Kansas Lions honored the three District winners during Mid-Winter Rally in January at Manhattan. These young artists competed for state honors.

The first place poster was created by Siena Masilionis, District A, a seventh grade student at Leawood Middle School in Leawood. Her poster went on to compete at the International level.

Second place was won by Lyssa Bushy, District K, a sixth grade student at Dighton Elementary in Dighton.

The third place state winner is Kashiana Stallings, District N, an eighth grade honors student at Mayberry Middle School in Wichita.

Looking ahead, the theme for the 2020-21 Peace Poster Contest is “Peace through Service.” Kits now are available from Lions Clubs International. In addition to creating art on paper, there also is an option to create art through the written word for students who are visually challenged.

Kansas Lions congratulates all these winning students and thanks all those who support this contest at the local, district and state levels.



First place state Peace Poster Contest winner Siena Masilionis is a seventh grader at Leawood Middle School. Photos by Becky Funke



Third place Peace Poster contest winner Kashiana Stallings is pictured here with her parents and PDG Don Cunningham (second from left). Stallings is an eighth grade honors student at Mayberry Middle School in Wichita.



The second place poster was created by Lyssa Bushy of Dighton.

## Leos participate in Mid-Winter Rally



### Excellence Award

The Leo Club Excellence Award is given annually to fewer than one-half of 1 percent of all the clubs in the world. The award is based on hours of service, fundraisers, number of people in the community helped by these efforts, and the diversity of the projects. The **Blue Valley West Leos** now have earned this award for 17 years in a row. Each award honors a different group of students but the same work ethic and heart for service. Members of the club are pictured here at the Mid-Winter Rally banquet.



Jennifer Weber receives a Presidential Leadership Award at Mid-Winter Rally for her service as advisor to the Blue Valley West Leo Club. Pictured with her are PID Bill Philippi (left) and ID Mike Banks.



Kansas Leos work on a service project of tied blankets.

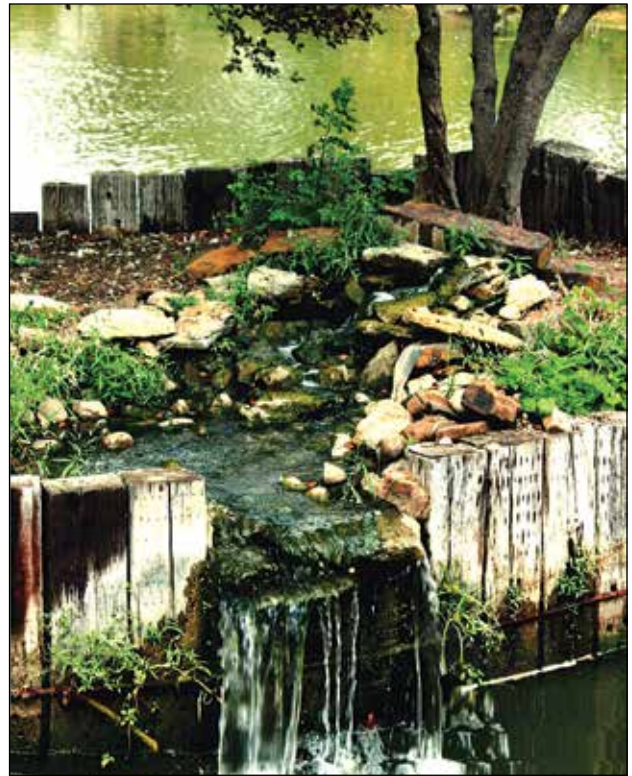
Photos by Becky Funke



## Environmental photo contest state winners



*Animal Life — PCC Fran Smith, Ulysses Lions*



*Natural Landscape — Terri Horner, Great Bend Evening Lions*



*Weather Phenomenon — 1VDG Diana Baumann, Hays Lions*



*Plant Life — Greg Billings, Kensington Lions*



*Environmental Service Projects — PDG Chris Bauer, Humboldt Lions*

## Cancellation of Lions Band Camp makes sad history

Sometimes life is just not fair, but we must keep moving on, for tomorrow a new day will come.

March 24 has to be one of the saddest days we have experienced. This was the day that Lion Shari and I made the decision to cancel the 2020 Kansas Lions Band camp. This cancellation marks the first time in the history of the Kansas Lions Band that there would be no camp, no Friday night performance, and no Saturday morning State Convention concert.

For weeks, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was taking its toll, with increasing numbers of cases. We had prayed and hoped that a miracle would turn the situation around; however, that was not to be the case. The love for our students; the concern for the health, safety, and well-being of our students has always been and will forever be the number one priority. Knowing that the camp brings together more than 200 students from every corner of the state and places them into close contact 24 hours a day, the only prudent option was to cancel the camp.

Every day we fielded phone calls from various Lions asking if the camp was going to go on as planned. We had even received 23 applications and

knew of more that were to be submitted from the calls we had received. Once the decision to cancel was made, the students were called and a post was placed on Facebook. As Shari and I made the phone calls, students and their parents were saddened to hear the news, but completely understood. It was the right call to make.

This year's camp had the opportunity to have a record five fifth year returning students. They were Tia Cole (Inman), Alexander Elley (Drexel, Mo.), Amanda Merrill (Waterville), Molly Servaes (Burlington), and Abigail Smith (Coffeeville). These seniors have had many things taken from them this year due to the current situation (prom, graduation, and playing for the last time as part of the Kansas Lions Band). The one thing they will not have taken from them is the honor of being listed on our historical record with the previous five-year students. Each of them has been mailed their five-year pin and current KLBF pin. We also mailed four-year pins and current KLBF pins to 19 potential fourth year students and current KLBF pins to the other students that had submitted their applications.

This was to be our 18th year in charge of the band. It will be surreal not

to load the band trailer and head off to camp. Everyone was excited about attending camp at Washburn University, performing in White Concert Hall, and being housed in the Living Learning Center. Now we take a short break and then continue preparation for the 2021 band camp to be held at Washburn University. The committee also will continue coordinating requirements for the 2022 camp at Pittsburg University (their 100th club anniversary) and returning to Fort Hays State University in 2023 (20 years since the last time the band was there).

Thank you, Lions and the Kansas Lions Band Foundation, for the support you have shown to make each camp a success, year after year. You can be assured that the sadness you may be experiencing by not having the band perform this year is no less than the sadness of the students by not being able to play for you.

In closing, I leave you with this quote by Bob Marley, "*The good times of today, are the sad thoughts of tomorrow.*"

*Respectfully,  
PCC Hans & Lion Shari Neidhardt  
Kansas Lions Band Co-Chairs*

*The 2019 four-year band students are pictured here before last year's concert. Several who would have been eligible to return in 2020 will be honored as five-year band participants, even though this year's band camp was cancelled due to the coronavirus.*  
File photo



## Meet the District Governors for 2020-2021

### District K

Hello, Kansas Lions! What a challenging year to be stepping in as District Governor! We lost our beloved IVP Haynes Townsend, then are staying home to flatten the curve of COVID-19 and now no International Convention. But – we are Lions and this is what we do. We take a world of pain and despair and make it something filled with hope and joy. And the best joy in the world is in the heart of the Lion who serves. And so we continue and we face this head on. We learn to help others in ways we had not considered before and I look forward to working with the Lions in Kansas to make our communities and clubs stronger than ever.

I am a member of the Hays Lions and previously the Norton Lions clubs. These clubs are near and dear to my heart as are all the clubs/members in our district. I have spent the last two years getting to know you and am so excited to work with you in the coming year on projects and in forming new



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leaders. I have a fantastic Cabinet set up and cannot wait to see what they can do! I have plans in place to do things a little differently to make meetings and trainings something to look forward to.

I have served as a Board Member at both clubs. I was President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Project Chair at Norton. In the District in addition to VDG, I have been a Zone Chair, Regional Zone Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. The last two years have been crazy busy because my Lion partner and husband is DG Tom Baumann. What fun we have had serving the District, attending projects and providing new and exciting training for our District. We have attended as many trainings as we could during this time to be able to serve you better, including Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute and the Faculty Development Institute. We

worked together on your District Convention and will do so again next year.

*Continued on next page*

### District A

For those I haven't met in my travels around the State, I'm DGE Rick Dodson. On July 1, I'll become the District Governor for District 17-A. Before my introduction, I'd like to thank the other two members of our District Governor Team that I had the privilege of working with this year. DG Diane Hentges and 2VDG Vania Castro have been a pleasure to work with. They are tireless advocates for Lionism in our District. I like to joke that I feel like a thorn between two roses when I'm with them. Fortunately, I get to work with both of them on the Cabinet again next year.

I've waited more than 35 years for this opportunity and have taken the initiative to ensure I have the experience and training to assume the duties as District Governor. Since 1984, I have been a member of the Lansing Lions Club and served in almost all club officer positions. At the District level, I've been Zone Chairman and Region Membership Chairman multiple times. I served as District Leadership Chair, Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Treasurer, and co-chair for two District Conventions. Most recently, I've served on the



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State Historical Committee and am currently the State LCIF Coordinator.

We have a great challenge throughout the world to increase our membership so we can continue to provide quality service to our communities. You'll be hearing much more about this during the upcoming year as we implement the North American Membership Initiative.

As my District Governor Team visits clubs next year, you will be introduced to the Leadership Support Team program that we are initiating to identify, encourage, and mentor our future Lions leaders. There is a wealth of untapped leadership potential in the District, and one of my primary efforts will be to see that those Lions gain the experience, training, and confidence to guide us into the future.

I believe in training and education. I'm a graduate of the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute, the Advanced Lions Leadership Institute, and the Faculty Development Institute. I participate in Lions webinars on a variety of topics. I'm pursuing certification to be a Guiding Lion and completing courses in the Lions University. Most

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## District N

I have been a member of the Humboldt Lions Club since 1977 and have served as president, secretary, treasurer and most other club positions.

At the district level, I have been involved in leadership for over 30 years, including serving as district governor in 2003-04, cabinet secretary, cabinet treasurer, zone chair, region chair plus numerous other committee positions.

I have been active at the state level for over 20 years having served on numerous state committees and am currently serving as the MD-17 Constitution and By-laws Chairperson.

I attended Lions Leadership Training in Oak Brook, Ill. I have been a presenter at two GPLLI forums and two Kansas Lions Leadership Roundups. I have been a club secretary instructor for numerous years.

I have attended several USA/Canada Forums and was the



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Manpower Chair of the host committee at the 2013 forum in Overland Park. I'm a graduate of the USA/Canada Forum's Lions University, having received the Bachelor of Lions Certificate at the Omaha, Neb. forum, the Masters of Lions Certificate at Columbus, Ohio and the Doctorate of Lions Certificate at the Spokane, Wash. forum. I recently completed training at the LCI's Midwest Faculty Development Institute and am now a certified trainer.

In addition I have a Melvin Jones Fellowship, two Claude M. DeVorss Fellowships, a Bill & Dorothy Wunder Youth Fellowship and hold a Life Membership in the Association of Lions Clubs. I have received numerous International President's Certificates of Appreciation, an International President's Leadership Award and an International President's Award.

I am also involved in numerous organizations in my community.

## District K *continued*

We make a great team and enjoy working with each other and you.

I am the Chief Financial Officer at Wilkens Manufacturing in Stockton. We make walking floor and belt trailers and sell them internationally as well as all over the United States. I love my work there and am looking forward to the International Convention in Australia where some of our customers are based.

DG Tom and I have four children and have one daughter in Hays who has blessed us with four wonderful grandchildren. We absolutely love having them so close.

Something new this year is the North American Membership Initiative (NAMI) which I have opted into along with the upcoming Governors in District A, Rick Dodson, and District N, Chris Bauer. I very much enjoy working with these gentlemen. We make a great team and will work together to make NAMI successful in Kansas. We will also work to be the best DG Team possible. We have a great year ahead and I look forward to every minute. Take care and stay safe, dear Lions.

## District A *continued*

of this training is free, so I encourage you to consider participating.

I'm proud to be a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow as well as a recipient of the Bill and Dorothy Wunder Youth Fellowship and the Claude DeVorss Fellowship. I strongly believe in supporting the Lions Clubs International Foundation and our three Kansas Lions Foundations.

On a personal note, I retired from civil service at Fort Leavenworth in 2013 and retired from the military after serving 28 years in the active Army, Kansas Army National Guard, and the U. S. Army Reserves. My wife, Rumi, and I have been married for 46 years and have lived in Lansing over 33 years. We have two sons: Michael lives in Tacoma, Wash., and Lion Chris lives in Emporia. My favorite hobbies (other than Lions) are traveling, walking, and reading.

I look forward to meeting many more of you during my club visits and at various Lions events during this next Lions Year.

**Kansas  
Lions  
online**

Kansas Lions: [www.kansaslions.org](http://www.kansaslions.org)  
Kansas Lions Foundation: [www.kansaslionsfoundation.org](http://www.kansaslionsfoundation.org)  
Kansas Lions Sight Foundation: [www.lions4sight.com](http://www.lions4sight.com)  
Kansas Lions Band Foundation:  
[www.kansaslions.org/Kansas\\_Lions\\_Band.html](http://www.kansaslions.org/Kansas_Lions_Band.html)

## Volunteers needed to staff MSU at Kansas State Fair

*Editor's note: At the time this issue was published, the Kansas State Fair was still scheduled to take place in September at Hutchinson.*

The Kansas Lions have provided free blood pressure, blood sugar, adult vision & hearing, and children's vision screenings (we now also offer children's hearing screening) at the annual Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson for the past 10 years.

The Kansas Lions Sight Foundation (KLSF) appreciates all the Lions throughout Kansas that have assisted with these screenings to help individuals identify and hopefully address

health, vision, and hearing concerns. At the 2019 fair, screenings identified 52 individuals with blood sugars over 200 and one had a blood sugar reading of 522. This is a great opportunity for diabetes awareness and education.

Lions were privileged to screen 1,020 children and for one 10 month old, it was a sight-changing event. She had severe astigmatism in both eyes but because it was detected at an early age, it can now be addressed by an eye care professional.

We are again returning to the 2020 Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson from Sept. 11 to Sept. 20. Lions clubs and

individual Lions, your help is needed to provide these screenings to all fair attendees that request them.

We provide a free day's gate pass to the fair for anyone who volunteers to assist with this Kansas Lions service project. There are a limited number of reserved parking permits for those volunteers with limited mobility.

Please contact Lion Sylvia Reinhardt at 620-921-0130 or e-mail [poorfarm-er@eaglecom.net](mailto:poorfarm-er@eaglecom.net) to sign up to help with this year's state fair screenings.

*Lion Sylvia Reinhardt  
KLSF VP & 17-A Director*

## Letter to the Editor

### *Building a vision for a better Kansas Lions organization*

As I sit in self imposed semi-isolation, I write this message to the Lions of Kansas. I pray that you are all well in body and spirit.

This is the last issue of *The Kansas Lions News*, brought about by the decisions of the Kansas Lions Organization. Upon hearing of this decision, I started to investigate why this decision was made. My conclusion to the information is that the Kansas State Organization needs to reorganize.

But, having been involved in Lions since 1959, (my Dad joined Lions) I feel a great commitment to Lions. Having first joined Kansas Lions in 1969 and now a member of the **Lawrence Lions Club** I have a great interest in

the health of the Kansas Lions Organization. Therefore, this article.

I need your help, or rather the Kansas Lions needs you help. I have presented to the State Council a plan that would save the organization. The plan was sent to many of the Lions who control the organization. We had a meeting at Mid-Winter Rally to discuss the plan. It was my understanding that a meeting of a select group of Lions would be called to a meeting. To date there has been no movement by the State Organization to hold a meeting to develop a meaningful reorganization.

I would ask that you become involved by asking your District Gov-

ernors and Vice District Governors to consider a reorganization. We are working on rules that are 30 years old. Also, if you think *The Kansas Lions News* is of interest to you that they reconsider the decision to discontinue the KLN.

I will be developing my own newsletter to send to the Kansas Lions. I will detail the results of any reorganization or lack thereof. If you would like to be on that mailing list, please e-mail me at [pidgene@aol.com](mailto:pidgene@aol.com).

Thank you, it is an honor to serve the Kansas Lions.

*PID Gene Vogel, President  
Kansas Lions Sight Foundation*

### **Kansas Lions History Project**

*We need your help. The historical committee is collecting electronic copies of historical Lions documents from the past 100 years of Kansas Lionism. We would like to have electronic copies of newspaper articles, newsletters and other items detailing the history of your club, district, and multiple district.*

*Items of interest are event flyers/posters, club charters, banners, awards, photos, newsletters, etc. Just scan the item or take a picture of it and e-mail it to PDG Chris Bauer at [lionchris@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lionchris@sbcglobal.net). Or if you have a paper copy, you can mail it to PDG Chris Bauer, 924 North 11th Street, Humboldt, KS 66748. Thank you.*

*PDG Chris Bauer  
MD-17 Lions State Historian.*

## Lions step up, make masks for COVID-19 response



In the last several years, the saying “Where There’s a Need, There’s a Lion” became a mantra for Lions around the world. With the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent call for cloth masks, PCC Hans and Lion Shari Neidhardt took that to heart.

PCC Hans writes: “So far we have completed 275 masks, of which we have sent/handed out 230. Shari wanted to help out locally and within the state. There is no charge for the masks, but we will accept donations to purchase more supplies.

“We provided 30 to our local Middle School so the teachers could hand out meals to parents for their children. Forty went to a nurse for her doctor’s office for staff use so they could provide their patients with the paper masks. Our latest request of 17 masks came from DGE Diana, for a small hospital outside of Hays.



“Shari taught me how to use her sewing machine (and she said I broke it, so I had to replace it with a new one). We each have several steps in the process. It has been a pleasure to serve as Lions in a small but new way.”

17-N District Governor Marla Larison also has been busy sewing, making 100 masks.

### We Serve • We Serve • We Serve

*ABOVE LEFT: PCC and State Treasurer Hans Neidhardt sews face masks for use during the coronavirus pandemic.*

*ABOVE RIGHT: Finished masks await distribution.*

*BELOW LEFT: Lion Shari Neidhardt prepares to construct a face mask.*

Contributed photos

### We Serve • We Serve • We Serve



# A look back at the beginning of The Kansas Lions News

The first effort toward a State publication to reach the Lay Lion was in the spring of 1963. At the February State Council meeting, Kenneth Collins, Governor of 17-SE, Hutchinson, proposed a trial issue of a 12-page (8.5 x11 inch) State paper. Each Governor was asked to contribute material from his district and was to make a special effort to sell some advertising.

The paper was printed at Hutchinson. Once printed, the papers were divided among the Governors, who in turn distributed them to club secretaries in their area. Then the club secretary was to give the papers to members of their clubs. This distribution plan was not too successful. The new State Council did not pursue the matter, and there were no further issues.

PDG Ellis Stackfleth, Anthony, had been publishing a successful newsletter as secretary of the Past District Governors Club, which he was mailing to the club membership. He became interested in a publication for general mailing to the Lions membership of Kansas.

At the May meeting of the State Council in 1965, he suggested a plan for such a publication. His idea was for a simple, brief and inexpensive quarterly issue. He suggested a legal size sheet of paper (8.5x14 inch), to be printed on both sides, and mailed third class to each Lion.

Considerable interest was shown in his plan. The matter was referred to the new State Council, with a request for a committee to be appointed to make a study of the possibilities. Gerald A. Caywood of Wichita, the new State Council chairman, appointed Past District Governor Harold Fankhauser of Madison as chairman of the Publication Committee. Other members of the committee were Ellis Stackfelth and Kenneth Collins. This committee held a meeting following the first business session of the State Council in Dodge City in August. Several Lions were invited to meet with the committee. Among them were C.D. Chuck Kittell from McPherson; Gib Morgan, special



*The Kansas Lions News has come a long way since its inception.*

representative (LCI) from Wichita, and Earle Lyle of Girard.

It was decided that Lion Earle Lyle should be given the job of editing, printing, and mailing the paper. The next morning Chairman Fankhauser presented the committee report to the State Council along with a request for funds to finance quarterly publication for a year. The State Council approved the requested funding.

The preparation of the mailing list for the new publication proved to be quite a task. The new idea of a postal zip code would be implemented by the postal service the following January, so zip code numbers were to be placed on all address plates. At the time most people were unfamiliar with zip codes and only a few were paying any attention to them.

Club members would comprise the mailing list. There would be no subscription list as such. Club secretaries were to submit membership lists, but most of these came without zip codes. The overseeing of the mailing list preparation was done at Girard. Girls from the senior typing class at Girard High School cut the address plates, thereby earning money for their Senior Class Trip. Everett Parks, Girard Lions Club secretary and the Commerce teacher at the High School, supervised the work. The first issue of "The Kan-

sas Lions News" was published in November 1965, and was mailed third class to the 12,000 Lions in the State.

The Kansas Lions News, in the beginning, was a single sheet (9x16 inch), printed on both sides, in four columns on the page. It was mailed from Girard under permit #80. In its first seven years, the membership of this committee changed each year but Earle Lyle of Girard remained the paper's only editor. In addition to Harold Fankhauser of Madison, other Lions who held this appointment are Curtis Sides of Altamont, Earle Lyle of Girard, Fred Sprang of Baxter Springs, and Jay Dutton of Colony. All are Past District Governors.

The February 1967 issue of the paper was converted to a four page (9x12 inch) paper, and an application for a second class mailing permit was filed with the postal service. In April 1967, this application was approved and a permit was granted. The change in mail classification not only provided a more rapid delivery; it also reduced the postage by nearly \$250 per issue.

Lion Earle gave many hours of dedicated service through the years. He had operated a printing business in Girard since 1941. He died Sept. 20, 1977.

*Respectfully,  
Viola & PDG Bernard Lee*



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## Meet the 2020-2021 Council Chair

First, I would like to thank the Council of Governors for the vote of confidence to be the Council Chair for the Lions' year 2020-2021. This year will definitely be a challenging year for Lions worldwide.

We have already changed how we function as Lions. Currently clubs are not meeting in person. Clubs are meeting using various virtual platforms that are available. Districts A & N will have their District Conventions using Zoom. The State and International Conventions have been canceled. Our State GLT, PDG Dan Funke, is doing virtual training for the incoming District Governors. We have responded to the challenge.

The one thing however that has been consistent is that our Lions in Kansas continue to serve. We have sewing machines across the state powered by



*Diane Hentges*  
 Kansas City Downton Lions Club  
 812 North Washington Blvd.  
 Kansas City KS 66102  
 C 913-708-5323  
 dkhentges0503@gmail.com

Kansas Lions who are making masks for first responders. Other Lions are collecting food for local food pantries. Lions are sending cards to residents in care facilities and calling Lions and neighbors that live alone. Clubs are remembering LCIF, Kansas Lions Foundation, Kansas Sight Foundation, Kansas Lions Band Foundation and various local non-profits.

It is predicted that returning to the old normal will be a long time in coming. As Lions we will continue to be challenged to meet, recruit, train and above all to SERVE.

On a closing note, this edition of *The Kansas Lions News* is the last. Last fall the Council of Governors, in order to help alleviate a budget shortfall, cut the KLN from future budgets. We, as Kansas Lions, will be challenged to improve the way we communicate statewide.

## *Please help identify every pin, button related to Kansas Lions*

Past District Governor Chris Bauer, chairperson of the MD-17 Lions Historical Committee, is trying to identify all pins and buttons related to Kansas Lions.

This includes State and District pins, club pins, anniversary pins, leadership pins, training pins, DG/PDG pins, award pins, convention pins, personal pins, membership pins, sponsor pins, band pins, donation pins, fundraiser pins, ID/PID pins, campaign pins, Pin Trader Club pins, promotional pins and more.

He would like photos and information about all Kansas pins. *His goal is to identify every Kansas pin ever made.*

Please send information to lionchris@sbcglobal.net or mail to Lion Chris Bauer, 924 North 11th Street, Humboldt, KS 66748.

